

## **Paths Towards Impact: How to Evaluate Technology for Development Interventions**

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**Brief Bio**  
*Session Leader(s)*

Marina Cracco is a sustainable development professional with experience working on project and program evaluations, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, environmental and social safeguards, gender and protected areas. She has over 17 years of experience in regional, non-governmental organizations and multilateral development funds. Prior to joining CODEV as the Education Program Coordinator, she was task-managing the First Phase of the Adaptation Fund Evaluation, and the Cuba Country Portfolio Evaluation and the Peru Impact Study for the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.

**Abstract**  
*Short description, including alignment with conference themes and objectives*

Technology for development interventions must achieve a double set of impacts; those related to the innovation or technology effective operation, uptake and sustainability in particular and those concerning development and social and environmental impacts in general. Evaluating these sometimes potentially opposite impacts is challenging.

This session will devote time presenting experiences and discussing approaches that could offer researchers and practitioners ideas on how to develop pathways towards development impacts.

The session is aligned with all the conference themes because evaluation is a cross-cutting subject. It particularly aligns with specific topics of three conference themes: medical technologies (social impact assessment and field experiments), energy (feasible, sustainable, cost-effective provision of energy) and humanitarian aid (performance and impact evaluation of technological innovations).

**Description**  
*Proposed discussion focus*

This session will strive to understand the role played by evaluation frameworks and tools to understand the social, economic and environmental factors that promote or hinder the design, adoption by beneficiaries and scale-up of technologies and technology-based interventions that have a development goal.

In the session, case studies and examples of theory formulations and application of methods (including experimental and quasi-experimental designs) will be presented as well as experience measuring social and environmental outcomes and impact of technological interventions and technologies in any of the six core thematic areas of the Conference.

This session will focus its case studies in examples of impact evaluations and evaluations tools that show positive changes in livelihoods achieved by a technology or technological intervention or innovation, specifically quantifying changes in behavior (adoption and uptake) of a technology or impact evaluations that exemplify the challenges of achieving such changes.

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### **Objectives**

*Justification and expected impact during and after the conference*

The 2016 UNESCO Tech4Dev Conference is not about *innovation* and *social impact* separately, but about potential paths from innovation to social impact. Specifically, to understand how through innovation we can achieve social impact. Evaluation is the process that helps researchers and practitioners to understand these paths. Evaluation asks: Is the innovation per se bringing the expected impact? How effective is the innovation or technology in the specific development context?

The objective of this session is to try to answer these questions and contribute towards explaining and presenting some of the evaluation approaches and lessons that could be applied to technology for development interventions. The expected outcome of the session is to strengthen participants' knowledge on evaluation of technology interventions for development. Better design and implementation of effective interventions with clear paths to the achievement of social and environmental impacts could be a secondary outcome of the session.

### **Target Audience**

- Researchers working in the development of a technology or a technological intervention
- EPFL and other Academic Institutions' Students wanting to learn more about impact and how to measure it
- Private sector and entrepreneurs
- Government, Multilateral and International Organizations and policy makers
- Professionals working on the design, implementation and evaluation of projects, programs and technologies for development